

# NEWS TODAY

## CITY GAS DISTRIBUTION (CGD) NETWORKS WILL SOON COVER 72% OF COUNTRY'S POPULATION

- In 2019, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had commenced work for 10th CGD.
  - After its completion **70% of the country's population and 52.73% of area** will be covered under CGD.

### About CGD

- CGD is **interconnected network of pipelines to make supply of natural gas** to domestic, industrial or commercial premises and CNG stations situated in a specified Geographical Area (GA).
  - **Natural gas is a superior fuel** as compared with coal & other liquid fuels as it is environment friendly, safer and cheaper fuel.
- CGD networks are being **developed based on availability of trunk gas pipeline connectivity** or gas sources and techno-commercial feasibility in a GA.
- **Benefits of CGD networks:** Uninterrupted supply of cooking fuel to households, combating industrial pollution, saving on cost, moving towards gas based economy, reducing carbon emissions etc.
- **Initiatives to promote CGD:**
  - Public utility status to CGD, under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
  - MoPNG has accorded priority to PNG (Domestic) and CNG (Transport) segments of CGD sector in domestic gas allocation.
  - State governments are advised to **standardize Road Restoration/permission charges** for development of CGD networks.

## LOK SABHA SPEAKER NOMINATES 15 MPS TO ASSIST DELIMITATION COMMISSION (DC)

- **DC was setup** earlier in March for **redrawing Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland and Union Territory of J&K.**

### About Delimitation

- It is **process of fixing boundaries of territorial constituencies** in a country or a state having legislative body.
- **Delimitation is assigned to a high power body known as DC** or a Boundary Commission.
  - Under **Article 82**, Parliament enacts a **Delimitation Act** after every Census establishing a DC.
  - **Under Article 170**, States get divided into territorial constituencies.
- DC have been **constituted 4 times in 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002.**
  - It is **appointed by President** and its **orders have force of law and cannot be challenged** before any court.
- **Composition:** three members for each (respective) state/UT:
  - a **serving or retired judge** of SC as chairperson,
  - **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** or Election Commissioner nominated by CEC.
  - **State Election Commissioner** of concerned state/UT.

## NITI AAYOG CEO SUGGESTS STEPS TO MAKE INDIA'S EXPORTS COMPETITIVE

- Measures are proposed **to improve competitiveness of India's external trade.**
  - It could further **improve India's ranking** on 'trading across borders' parameter in World Bank's **Ease of Doing Business**, at 68 now (from 146 in 2018).
  - India's share in global merchandise exports is 1.7% & for services it is 3.5%. (China's share is around 12%).

### Measures include

- **National trade network (NTN):** On lines of **Goods and Service Tax Network** integrating all departmental data flows into one integrated system. NTN will:
  - **facilitate exports and imports** by existing firms
  - **bring MSMEs** who currently have to export through export houses and third parties due to complexities in current system.
  - **reduce cost of transaction** and minimise need for posting of large numbers of officers.
- **Information flow improvement:** Using simple language and ensuring transparency in issuance of notifications, making past tribunal decisions available online etc.
- **Making customs processes efficient:** Modify Risk Management System (RMS) to record actions of field officers.
- **Reduce cartelization** between shipping lines and others as it results in padding up of bills and firms are made to pay for unnecessary charges.

## MAKING MGNREGS WORKSITES PANDEMIC-SAFE

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) will be witnessing an **increase in demand for work** as a large number of migrant workers are returning to their villages due to lockdown.
  - **From April 1 to May 20 around 3.5 million** new job applications have come under MNREGS, which is highest in decade.
- Hence, **providing work and safe worksites** will be a challenge in context of COVID-19.
- **Some measures can be:**
  - Identifying works with **fewer collective tasks**, like water conservation works, plantations, etc.
  - **Work allocation as per age vulnerability.**
  - **Have single muster roll** in one worksite so that social distancing can be strictly monitored.
  - **Different communication** channels like internet, phone, or oral communication must be encouraged for demanding work.
  - **Avoid delay in payment** of wages & issuing of new job cards.
  - **Implementation of works** to be **under panchayats** for achieving balance between social distancing and livelihoods activities.
- MGNREGS **provides at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment** in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
  - An additional 50 days of wage employment is also provided in notified drought affected areas or natural calamity areas.






# TRACKING SDG 7: THE ENERGY PROGRESS REPORT

- Report is collaboration of, **International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, United Nations Statistics Division, World Bank and World Health Organization.**
- It monitors and assesses attainments in the global quest for universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy by 2030.

## Key Highlights

- Access to Electricity:** Share of global population with access to electricity increased from 83 % in 2010 to 90 % in 2018.
  - > India is among top three countries with largest deficits in regard with access to electricity.
- Share of Renewable:** Most of the growth has occurred in electricity sector due to rapid expansion of wind and solar power.
- Energy Efficiency:** Global primary energy intensity (defined as total primary energy supply per unit of GDP) improved by 1.7% in 2017.
- International financial flows:** to developing countries in support of clean and renewable energy doubled since 2010.
- Impact of COVID 19:** Pandemic impact the ability of many households and businesses to pay for electricity services thus it affects energy transition and progress toward SDG 7.
- Suggestions include,** Integrated electrification strategies, Innovations in technology and business models, policies on universal access to clean cooking fuels etc.

## Key Findings of the Tracking SDG 7: Energy Progress Report for 2020

2010		Latest Data
1.2 billion people without access to electricity		789 million people without access to electricity (2018)
3 billion people without access to clean cooking		2.8 billion people without access to clean cooking (2018)
16.3% share of total final energy consumption from renewables		17.3% share of total final energy consumption from renewables (2017)
5.9 MJ/USD primary energy intensity		5.0 MJ/USD primary energy intensity (2017)
10.1 USD billion international financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy		21.4 USD billion international financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy (2017)

SDG 7 is aimed at ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy by 2030.

## ALSO IN NEWS

<b>GDP data released by National Statistical Office (NSO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Highlights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>GDP growth in 2019-20 was 4.2%</b>, which is 11-year low (6.1% expansion in 2018-19).</li> <li>&gt; Growth in per capita income in real terms was 3.1% in 2019-20, (4.8% in 2018-19)</li> <li>&gt; <b>Fiscal deficit widened to 4.59% of GDP</b> in 2019-20, higher than estimate of 3.8%.</li> </ul> </li> <li>NSO under <b>Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation</b>, is responsible for conduct of large-scale sample surveys in diverse fields on All India basis.</li> </ul>
<b>National Career Service (NCS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Labour and Employment under NCS project has started <b>free online "Career Skills Training"</b> in partnership with TCS ION for <b>registered job-seekers</b>.</li> <li>NCS is a one-stop solution that provides a wide array of employment and career-related services to the citizens of India.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; It was launched by <b>Ministry of Labour &amp; Employment</b> as Mission Mode Project in 2015.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Invest India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently, <b>Invest India held a virtual panel discussion for global investors</b> with focus on emerging trends and opportunities in electronics system design and manufacturing sector.</li> <li>Invest India is the <b>National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency</b> that helps investors looking for investment opportunities and options in India.</li> <li>It was set up in 2009, as a non-profit venture <b>under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Rozgar Setu scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by <b>Madhya Pradesh</b> for <b>employing skilled workers</b> who have returned.</li> <li>This seeks to <b>bring skilled labor on single platform, and will connect</b> them with those needing them.</li> <li>State is <b>first to devise such a work plan</b>, surveying skilled workers who were employed at industries elsewhere.</li> </ul>
<b>Foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2019-20</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)</b> released data on FDI inflow for 2019-20.</li> <li><b>Key highlights:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>FDI into India jumped 18 percent</b> to \$73.46 billion in 2019-20.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Top 5 sectors attracting FDI:</b> Services, computer software and hardware, telecommunications, trading, automobiles.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Singapore is largest FDI source</b>, contributing to inflows of \$14.67.</li> <li>&gt; <b>States with highest share of FDI:</b> Maharashtra (30%), Karnataka (18%) and Delhi(17%).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Project Ahana</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is Plan India's (an NGO) national programme <b>working towards an AIDS free generation</b>.</li> <li><b>Partners:</b> National AIDS Control Organisation; Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM).</li> <li>Its <b>focus is on preventing parent-to-child transmission</b> among women in most vulnerable and marginalised communities.</li> </ul>
<b>Amery Ice Shelf (AIS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per <b>National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)</b>, there would be a <b>24% increase in expansion of AIS boundaries in Antarctica by 2021</b>.</li> <li>AIS is one of the <b>largest glacier drainage basins</b> in world, located on <b>east coast of Antarctica</b>. AIS dynamics and mass balance help in understanding changes in global climate scenario.</li> <li><b>NCPOR</b>, located in Goa is India's premier R&amp;D institution responsible for research activities <b>in polar and Southern Ocean realms</b>.</li> </ul>

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